

Questions God Asked
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Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Jesus is the bridge between people and the Father.”

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one can come to the Father except through Him. He is worthy to celebrate!”

**QUESTION #1 IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY:
HOW CAN I BE SURE OF THIS?**

- Our big idea this Christmas season is this: In a world of broken promises, God can be counted on.

(Luke 1) “13-15 But the angel reassured him, “Don’t fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You’re going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He’ll achieve great stature with God. 15-17 “He’ll drink neither wine nor beer. He’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother’s womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald God’s arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he’ll get the people ready for God.” 18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

I. Pointers About Promises

1. Put the promises in their CONTEXT to get their full meaning.

Hebrews 13:5 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

First part: “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said...”

2. Be willing to ACCEPT all of God’s promises, not just the ones you like.

John 16:33 “In this world you will have trouble...” “...But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

3. The ultimate aim of God’s promises are to GLORIFY Himself.

Psalms 119:38 “Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.”

4. Some promises are CONDITIONAL.

Deuteronomy 11:22-23 “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him – then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves.”

Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

5. Promises must be appropriated and applied by FAITH.

Hebrews 4:2 “...but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

Joshua 21:43 “So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers...”

Psalms 106:24 “Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe his promise.”

6. Don’t be PASSIVE about God’s promises.

Hebrews 6:12 “That you do not become sluggish [lazy], but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Proverbs 13:4 “The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.”

7. Hold on to Hope.

Hebrews 10:23-24 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Luke 1:18-19 “Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.”

Hebrews 10:36 “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

Luke 1:59-66